

HOUSE BILL NO. 601

INTRODUCED BY P. CLARK

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP AND DISTRICTS; INCREASING THE NUMBER OF COMMISSION MEMBERS FROM FIVE TO SEVEN; REDRAWING COMMISSION DISTRICTS TO MORE CLOSELY CONFORM TO THE FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS; AMENDING SECTION 2-15-3402, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 2-15-3402, MCA, is amended to read:

"2-15-3402. Fish, wildlife, and parks commission -- composition -- qualifications -- quasi-judicial.

(1) There is a fish, wildlife, and parks commission.

(2) The commission consists of ~~five~~ seven members. At least one member must be experienced in the breeding and management of domestic livestock. The governor shall appoint one member from each of the following districts:

(a) District No. 1, consisting of Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, and Lake, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli, Granite, and Lewis and Clark Counties;

(b) District No. 2, consisting of Deer Lodge, ~~Silver Bow, Beaverhead, Madison, Jefferson, Broadwater, Gallatin, Park, and Sweet Grass~~ Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Granite, and Ravalli Counties;

(c) District No. 3, consisting of ~~Glacier, Toole, Liberty, Hill, Pondera, Teton, Chouteau, Cascade, Judith Basin, Fergus, Blaine, Meagher, and Wheatland~~ Beaverhead, Silver Bow, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, Broadwater, Park, Gallatin, and Madison Counties;

(d) District No. 4, consisting of ~~Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Sheridan, Roosevelt, Petroleum, Garfield, McCone, Richland, Dawson, and Wibaux~~ Glacier, Toole, Liberty, Pondera, Teton, Cascade, Meagher, Judith Basin, Fergus, and Chouteau Counties;

(e) District No. 5, consisting of Golden Valley, Musselshell, Stillwater, Carbon, Yellowstone, Big Horn, ~~Treasure, Rosebud, Custer, Powder River, Carter, Fallon, and Prairie~~ Wheatland, and Sweet Grass Counties;

(f) District No. 6, consisting of Hill, Blaine, Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Sheridan, Roosevelt, McCone, and

1 Richland Counties; and

2 (g) District No. 7, consisting of Garfield, Prairie, Dawson, Wibaux, Fallon, Custer, Carter, Powder River,
3 Rosebud, and Treasure Counties.

4 (3) Appointments must be made without regard to political affiliation and must be made solely for the
5 wise management of the fish, wildlife, ~~and~~ state parks, and other outdoor recreational resources of this state.
6 A person may not be appointed to the commission unless ~~he~~ the person is informed or interested and
7 experienced in the subject of ~~wildlife~~, fish, wildlife, parks, and outdoor recreation and the requirements for the
8 conservation and protection of ~~wildlife~~, fish, wildlife, parks, and outdoor recreational resources.

9 (4) A vacancy occurring on the commission must be filled by the governor in the same manner and from
10 the district in which the vacancy occurs.

11 (5) The fish, wildlife, and parks commission is designated as a quasi-judicial board for purposes of
12 2-15-124. Notwithstanding the provisions of 2-15-124(1), the governor is not required to appoint an attorney to
13 serve as a member of the commission."
14

15 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Transition. (1) Because members of the current fish, wildlife, and parks
16 commission are residents of five of the seven new districts proposed in [this act], the governor shall appoint new
17 commissioners from the two unrepresented districts as follows:

18 (a) one new commissioner from district No. 2 created in [section 1(2)(b)]; and

19 (b) one new commissioner from district No. 7 created in [section 1(2)(g)].

20 (2) One of the new commissioners must be appointed for a 4-year term, and one of the new
21 commissioners must be appointed for a 2-year term.
22

23 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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